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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/259,427	02/26/1999	MARSHALL A. SLOO	27080	5283
23589	7590	09/11/2007		
HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP 2405 GRAND BLVD., SUITE 400 KANSAS CITY, MO 64108			EXAMINER NGUYEN, NGA B	
			ART UNIT 3692	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/259,427

Applicant(s)

SLOO, MARSHALL A.

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Appeal Brief filed on May 18, 2007, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claim 1-20 are pending in this application.

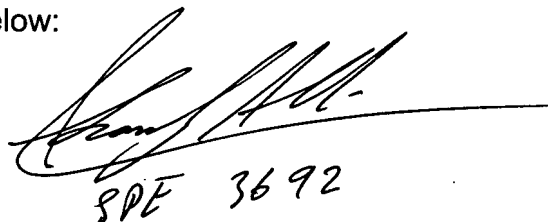
***Response to Appeal Brief***

3. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on May 18, 2007, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejections is set forth below.
4. To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of the reopening prosecution by signing below:



SPE 3692

Kambiz Abdi

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-8, 11, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott Maier, the Seattle Post Intelligencer, in view of Carlos Campos, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and further in view of Stockweather et al (hereinafter Stockweather), Business Wire.

Regarding to claim 1, Maier discloses a computer-based method of collecting and processing incidents observed by witnesses comprising the steps of: receiving into a computer system an incident report directly from a witness who observed an incident; and prompting the witness to provide certain types of information about the incident (Maier, pages 1, 3; web pages allow citizens with computers at home fill out incident reports).

Maier does not disclose selecting an authority to whom the incident report should be sent, wherein the authority is selected based at least in part on information provided by the witness and wherein the authority is automatically selected by the computer system based on information entered into the incident report by the witness; and sending the incident report to the selected authority so that the authority can respond to the incident report. However, Campos discloses selecting an authority to

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whom the incident report should be sent, wherein the authority is selected based at least in part on information provided by the witness and sending the incident report to the selected authority so that the authority can respond to the incident report (see entire documents, the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system automatically selects the authority depending on the nature of the call of the witness and sends the incident information the selected authority such as a police officer's cruiser, a firefighter's truck or a paramedic's ambulance). Stockweather discloses wherein the authority is ***automatically selected by the computer system*** (see page 2, paragraphs 8-9, "the computer system with dispatcher interface software, shows a map of the city that automatically locates all emergency vehicles. The computer identifies instantly the vehicles closets to the incident and their status, etc...) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the features taught by Campos and Stockweather above with Maier for the purpose of time consuming because the authority is automatically selected by the computer system, thus providing the authority with timely information that can be utilized to quickly solve the ongoing crimes.

Regarding to claim 2, Maier discloses the incident being selected from the group consisting of a criminal act, a legal violation, a sale of a defective product, and a rendering of an unsatisfactory service (page 1, drug dealers, murdered; page 3, illegal sale of guns to youths, being raped, robbed, stabbed, beaten, murdered).

Regarding to claim 3, Maier does not directly teach prompting the witness to enter into the incident report identification information identifying the offender. However,

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Maier teaches citizens can file online crime reports using the web page. Moreover, it is well known to include the identification information identifying the offender in the crime report. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the identification the offender in the crime report in Maier crime reports for the purpose of providing the offender information to the authority, in order to assist the authority to solve crimes.

Regarding to claims 4-6, Maier and Campos do not disclose receiving additional identification information identifying the offender and adding the additional identification information to the incident report; the additional information being obtained by searching files accessible by the computer system or receiving from the authority based on the identification information entered by the witness. However, it is well known in the art to receive additional information about the offender by searching the computer system or receiving from the authority. For example, a police officer, can also be a witness, can obtain more information about the offender by searching the computer database or receives from the other resource such as individuals, groups of influence in the community or organizations, etc.... Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above in Maier modified by Campos for the purpose of providing more information about the offender in order to quickly solve ongoing crimes.

Regarding to claims 7-8, Maier and Campos does not disclose the authority is an agency selected from the group consisting of a local police department, a local prosecutors office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency,

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a governmental agency rather than an individual agent representing the agency. However, transmitting an incident report depends on the type and how serious of the incident to the selected agency from different agencies such as a local police department, a local prosecutors office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, a governmental agency, is well known in the art of handling the crime incidents in the United State of America. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above in Maier modified by Campos for the purpose of providing more efficiency in solving ongoing crimes.

Regarding to claim 11, Maier discloses incident reports from a plurality of different witnesses are received in the computer system (Maier, pages 1, 3; web pages allow citizens with computers at home fill out incident reports).

Claims 17, 18 contain the same limitations found in claims (1, 3), 7, respectively, therefore are rejected by the same rationale.

7. Claims 9, 10, 12-16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott Maier, the Seattle Post Intelligencer, in view of Carlos Campos, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, in view of Stockweather et al (hereinafter Stockweather), Business Wire, and further in view of Colgan, U.S. Patent No. 5,510,978.

Regarding to claims 9,10, Colgan discloses the features not taught by Maier and Campos, receiving into the computer system an action report from the authority explaining the action the authority took in response to the incident report and storing the

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action report along with the incident report in a file accessible by the computer system (column 17, lines 31-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above in Maier modified by Campos for the purpose of providing more convenient to the authority to access the crime information in the computer system in order to assist the authority to solve crimes.

Regarding to claims 12-14, Colgan discloses the features not taught by Maier and Campos, storing the incident reports in a searchable database, permitting persons to access the searchable database to view the incident reports (column 16, lines 25-55), and receiving additional incident information from the persons that access the searchable database and adding the additional incident information to the incident reports to assist the authorities to solve crimes (column 17, lines 9-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the features above in Maier modified by Campos for the purpose of for the purpose of providing more convenient to the authority to retrieve crime information in the computer system in order to assist the authority to solve crimes.

Regarding to claims 15,16, Maier, Campos and Colgan do not disclose sending the additional identification information to the witness and prompting the witness to update the incident report based on the additional identification information. However, contacting the witness to receiving more information about the offender is well known. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above with Maier modified by Campos and

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Colgan for the purpose of allowing the witness to receive and update information in order to assist the authority to solve crimes.

Claims 19, 20 contains the same limitations found in claims 9, (1, 3, 7, 9, 12), respectively, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Claims **1-20** are rejected.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

10. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),

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or

(571) 273-0325 (for informal or draft communication, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Knox Building, 501 Dulany  
Street, Alexandria, VA, First Floor (Receptionist).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nga Nguyen".

NGA NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September 1, 2007